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East Germany

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY
TOPIC Information on Soviet Fall Maneuvers in the Bad Berka Area

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DATE OF CONTENT 9 to 20 October 1953

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DATE PREPARED 13 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [] observed a large-scale maneuver by Soviet army units in the vicinity of Bad Berka. During the nights of 9 to 11 October 1953, Soviet motorized units, which arrived from the east, assembled in an area between Adelsberg and Krakau near Blankenhain. []

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[] Most of the convoys observed consisted of 10 to 30 motor vehicles. The evening of 10 October, source saw an artillery column consisting of 13 prime movers each towing a gun and 10 trucks. The units assembled in the woods, avoiding to cross open valleys as far as possible.

2. At 8:42 a.m. on 12 October, 80 to 100 artillery pieces simultaneously opened fire which continued at a heavy rate for about 20 minutes, then decreased but was heard until about noon. After 9:30 a.m., the noise of operating motor vehicles and tanks was heard along the entire line between Adelsberg and Krakau. The vehicles and tanks appeared to move toward the west. Although air activity by assumed enemy forces was started immediately after the beginning of the attack, no active air defense measures were observed except for aiming practices by an AA battery. Fire orders were given orally by two men who operated an optical range finder. The 76.2-mm guns of the battery were operated by crews of three or four men. The pointing of the guns at their targets took place slowly and unevenly. The 76.2-mm field gun was emplaced about 70 meters east of the AA battery. After darkness, motor vehicles proceeded with dimmed lights. No activity was observed at night. Only firing by AT guns and tank guns was heard after the preparation by the artillery on the morning of 12 October.

3. On 13 October, the bridge over the Ilm River west of Bad Berka was declared demolished. Thereupon, some convoys crossed the river through a ford, while an engineer unit constructed a wooden emergency bridge over the river which, at this point, had a width of 10 to 12 meters and a depth of about 60 cm. The engineer unit observed consisted of a workshop truck, five trucks loaded with timber, and two amphibious cars. The load capacity of the bridge was estimated at 10 tons. Tanks arriving at the river, at first wanted to ford.

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the river, but eventually used the bridge which had been declared demolished.

4. On 13 October, [] a large number of anti-Soviet leaflets in Russian in the wooded area northwest of Bad Perka. The leaflets were signed by Major Leonid Poshokh (phonetic spelling) from Munich. On 19 October, [] such leaflets at camp sides deserted by Soviet units. On the same day, [] double sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets search the wooded area. [] that these sentries were looking for lost items of equipment and perhaps also for anti-Soviet leaflets. [] the local population was disgusted at the damages caused by the training Soviet units in fields and forests.

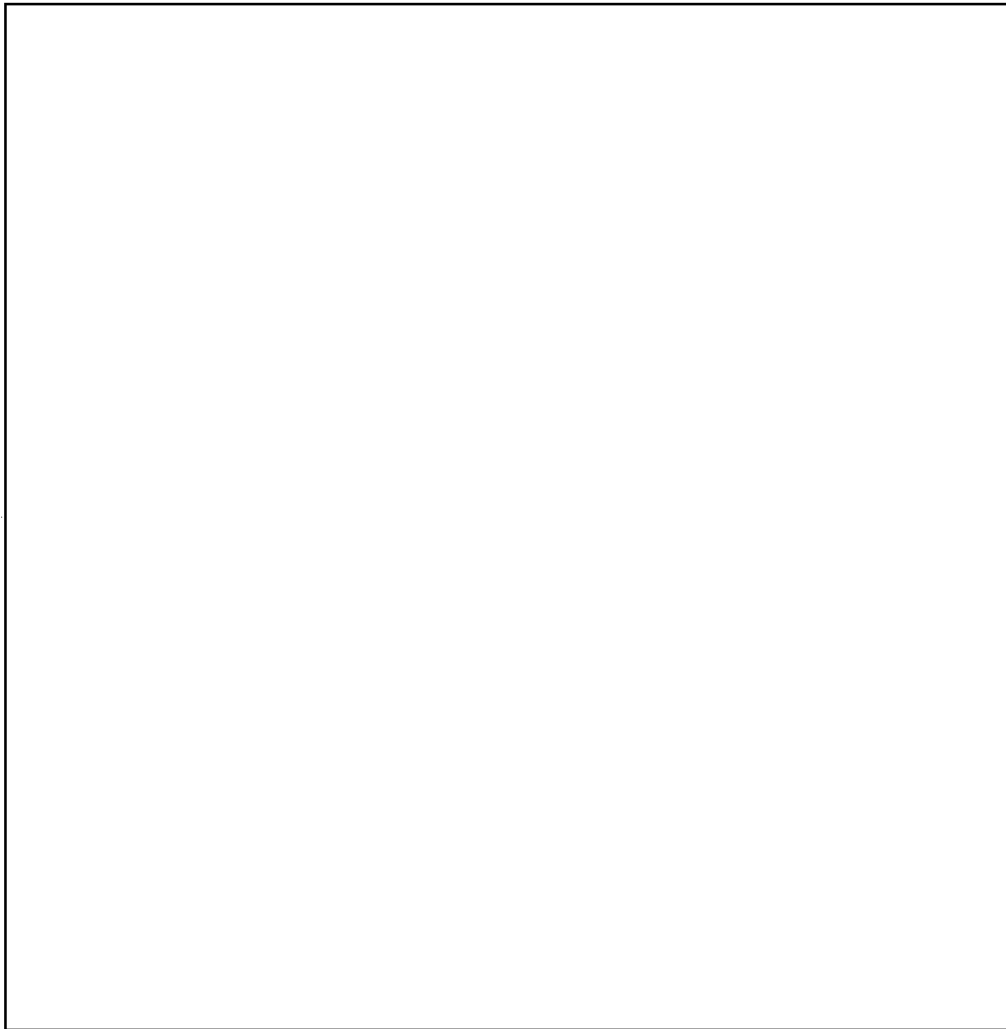
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Comment. The report supplements previous information on a maneuver held by the Eighth Gds Army. Information on the distribution of anti-Soviet leaflets was transmitted previously.

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